

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01

/125 W

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R 041440Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2684

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 040

E.O. 11 5*: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJ: ELEVENTH HOUR PROTESTS ABOUT GASOLINE
RATIONING

1. WITH GASOLINE AND LPG RATIONING DUE TO GO INTO
EFFECT JAN 7, GON HAS BEEN DELUGED BY DEMARCHES FROM
FIRMS, INDIVIDUALS AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS DEMANDING
THAT THE EVIL DAY BE POSTPONED. MAJOR EMPLOYER
ORGANIZATIONS AND BUILDING TRADE EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS
HAVE MADE THEIR DEMARCHES PUBLIC. MAIN RATIONALE FOR
PROPOSED DELAY IS THAT APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL
RATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL AND OTHER SPECIAL CASES HAVE NOT
BEEN FULLY PROCESSED. RESTAURANT INDUSTRY, WHICH HAS
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REPORTED LOSSES OF 45 MILLION GUILDERS FROM FIRST FIVE

CARLESS SUNDAYS, IS ALSO UNHAPPY. BY CONTRAST, NETHERLANDS RAILWAYS ARE MORE THAN PLEASED AT STATE OF PLAY, HOPING THAT ANTICIPATED RISE OF 40 PERCENT IN PASSENGER BUSINESS WILL HELP REDUCE MASSIVE OPERATING LOSSES (460 MILLION GULDERS IN 1973).

2. COMMENT. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY POSTPONEMENT OF RATIONING. 30 PERCENT CUT IN GASOLINE CONSUMPTION IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY GON TO PERMIT INCREASE OF OVER 1 MILLION TONS IN NAPHTHA PRODUCTION AND THEREBY MINIMIZE UNEMPLOYMENT IN PETROCHEMICAL AND RELATED INDUSTRIES. APPARENTLY JUDGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE THAT POTENTIAL POLITICAL LIABILITY OF RATIONING IS LESS THAN WOULD RESULT FROM SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT. GOULD

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